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THE RORSCHACH M RESPONSE AND INTEREST IN PEOPLE: A VALIDATION STUDY

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

THE RORSCHACH M RESPONSE AND INTEREST IN PEOPLE: A VALIDATION STUDY

The purpose of this thesis is:

To measure the degree of correlation between the amount of interest in people shown by individuals, and the number of Human Movement responses made by individuals on the Rorschach in order to determine whether or not a significant correlation does exist.

A group consisting of 46 subjects, twenty-one males and twenty-five females, almost all of them university students, was used as the experimental group. The procedure consisted of administering the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values, and the Harrower-Erickson Group Rorschach form to the subjects at a single sitting. Various correlations were obtained between the scores on the Social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values, the measure of interest in people, and the number of M responses given by the subjects. Correlations on various content types of M responses was also made. The following conclusions were drawn from the results.

1. Though there is a high correlation between M and the total number of responses (R) ($r = .70$) M is not an artifact of the number of responses.

2. There is not a significant correlation between interest in people as measured by the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values Social scale and the number of M responses given by subjects on the Group Rorschach test.

3. There is a biserial correlation of .37 which is significant at less than two percent (p less than .02) between interest in people as measured above and the number of M responses showing humans in friendly interaction.

4. There is also a significant biserial correlation of .45 (p less than .01) between low interest in people as measured above and the number of M responses showing hostile content.

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T.A.P.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

Ever since Hermann Rorschach gave to the world his ink-blot test of personality diagnosis, it has been recognized, by Rorschach himself (43), and by probably all subsequent Rorschach practitioners that the Human Movement response (hereafter referred to as the M response) is the most important single projection of the subject's personality in the entire test. In giving the ink-blots a life-like quality, not intrinsically a part of the static materials, the subject is believed to be adding something distinctively personal, to a greater extent than he does to any other type of percept in the test. If it be true that the M response is this important, and subsequent clinical and experimental evidence seems to be in agreement that it is, then it would be well to be sure, as nearly as possible, as to what aspects of personality the M response does in fact measure. At the present time there are basic disagreements in the latter regard. For the most part these disagreements center around the amount of correspondence between the M response and the acting personality. They range from Zygmont Piotrowski's view (37) of a positive correlation between activity in the world and the number and kind of M response to Samuel Beck (8) who follows Rorschach very closely in insisting that M measures what the individual would like to do if he were not otherwise restrained, in other words his fantasy life.

Somewhat related to the view of the M response as a measure of the kind of activity engaged in the world is a view held, in varying

degrees, by a number of Rorschach workers. This view is that the tendency to perceive human movement in static ink-blots indicates an interest in, if not a preoccupation with people. Bruno Klopfer holds to this view, to some extent at least, for he states that "the capacity for seeing human figures in the Rorschach blot materials is related to the capacity for good empathic relationships with other human beings (26, p. 264)". Phillips and Smith write that when found in "association with a full human percept, M indicates a sensitivity to interpersonal relationships which is requisite for establishing rapport and making a mature social adjustment (35, p. 71)". Anderson and Monroe hold that the presence of the M response shows a "considerable and often predominant concern with intra and interpersonal relationships (6, p. 144)". They also add however that such preoccupation may relate to unsolved personal problems. Anne Roe, in discussing the fact that clinical psychologists scored a high number of M responses in her experiments with the Rorschach says that "it can be argued that clinicians are more interested in people which, in my judgment is the primary meaning of M (40, p. 216)".

It would thus appear that several leading Rorschach practitioners hold, at least somewhat, to the view that the M response indicates interest in people, or the tendency to identify with people. In other words, in such a view, the tendency to see human movement in the Rorschach materials is a result of a predominant interest in or concern with humans. This is to say, in effect, that in an unstructured or ambiguous situation, such as the Rorschach test, there is a tendency to perceive what one is most interested in or concerned with i.e., one sees what one wants to see.

Many other leading Rorschach practitioners, on the other hand, hold that the M response indicates the amount and kind of fantasy or inner living which is the result of the inhibition of desired roles or activities. In this view the M response demonstrates a kind of experience that is the converse of activity in the world. Following what is largely Rorschach's original view here, are Beck and Rapaport in particular, and many experimentalists who have done validating research with the Rorschach, notably Heinz Werner, and Julian Meltzoff and his co-workers. This latter view may be said to be based on the perceptual theory that one sees (or experiences) what one wants to be.

It has, as noted, been generally acknowledged that the M response is the most important single aspect of the Rorschach test, yet there is some basic disagreement on the meaning to be attached to the M response. Further, there has been little research on the relations between the M response, and interest in people, a view apparently held by a number of leading and influential Rorschach practitioners. It is therefore the purpose of this thesis: to measure the degree of correlation between the amount of interest in people shown by individuals, and the number of Human Movement responses made by individuals on the Rorschach in order to determine whether or not a significant correlation does exist.

In order to carry out this aim it will be necessary to correlate the M responses given by subjects on the Rorschach test with an acceptable measure of interest in people. The social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values (3) will be used as the measure of interest in people, for this scale purports to measure the extent to which people are valued as ends in themselves, which is taken to be

interest in people in its purest form. The attempt will be made to justify using this scale for such a measure.

Definitions of Terms Used

M response - The M response occurs when the subject gives a response of human movement to a Rorschach ink-blot or portion thereof. For a response to be scored as M the subject must attribute an action, movement or life-like quality that is peculiar to humans to human or animal figures, to inanimate objects or abstract forces (26). In the classical meaning of the M response (43), it is necessary that there be a kinesthetic quality in a human concept i.e., the subject must himself experience the movement that is projected onto the ink-blot. Before a response can be scored M, humans must be capable of experiencing the particular movement that is perceived. The latter is, in the tradition of Rorschach himself, the one essential attribute of the M response.

Interest in people - In order to avoid any ambiguity in the use, measurement, or understanding of the term 'interest in people', which is a central concept in this study, it will be defined. As herein used, interest in people will refer to people viewed as ends in themselves. By this it is meant that people are not viewed as objects to be manipulated to other ends or goals, but rather are viewed as being of primary value and interest in themselves. The definition used here restricts itself to attaching a high value to other people. Thus the social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values (3) would seem to be the most appropriate measure of interest in people as here defined. According to the Manual for this scale, the following is meant by the

social value:

> The highest value for this type is love of people. In the Study of Values it is the altruistic or philanthropic aspect of love that is measured. The social man prizes other persons as ends, and is therefore himself kind, sympathetic and unselfish (3, p. 14).

The concept of the 'social man', and in fact, of the social value, is derived from Edward Spranger's classic work, Types of Men (48), wherein he promulgated the thesis that people could be classified, known and understood by the predominance of a particular value, or values and their mixtures which determine his way of perceiving reality. Spranger's thesis is irrelevant to this study except insofar as certain people are more interested in people than others. The Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values is used because it is a convenient measure of interest in people as ends in themselves and not because it is derived from Spranger's concept of ideal types. The term 'interest in people' is used synonymously with social value for the definitions used for both terms are interchangeable.

The general plan of this thesis is as follows:

A. A survey of the literature relevant to this subject. This is to consist mainly of a review of the literature pertaining to the meaning of the M response; also to some relevant literature pertaining to the nature of perception under varying conditions in unstructured situations, with special reference to the effect of values or dominant interests upon perception.

B. A report on the attempt to correlate the human movement responses given by subjects on the Rorschach test with the measure of the degree of interest in people as found by the social scale of the

Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values, including a description of the experimental procedure, the subject data, the research data and its analysis.

C. The conclusions drawn from the study.

D. The implications of the results of the study.

CHAPTER II

SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE

In his Psychodiagnostics (43) Rorschach devotes more space and attention to the M response than any other component of the test. Not only has the emphasis given by Rorschach to the M response been followed by subsequent practitioners of his technique but there has developed a body of literature on that subject alone that far outweighs the literature on all other areas of the Rorschach test. Thus it is that probably every text-book on the Rorschach method has devoted its largest single section to the scoring, meaning and importance of the M response. More validating research has been done on the M response than on any other single category of the test. For these reasons alone the M response lays claim to being the most important single aspect of the ink-blot test. From a theoretical point of view too, it lays this claim. It would probably be agreed by most of those familiar with projective techniques that the most distinctively individual aspects of the personality, as revealed in projective responses, would be those that differ most considerably from the nature of the test materials. The M response would therefore be expected to reveal the most individual aspects of the subject's personality. In this sense the body of literature on the M response, and the attempts to discover its meaning, theoretically and empirically, are certainly justified. As the present study is mainly concerned with the meaning of the M response an examination of the meanings given to this response by the major Rorschach practitioners, past and present, as well as the results of empirical attempts to validate the M response

will lead up to the present attempt to discover something of its meaning.

Hermann Rorschach

Rorschach was very insistent that before a response could be scored as M it had to be felt movement, rather than rationally inferred movement. In other words a kinesthetic activity of a sympathetic nature on the part of the perceiver was necessary in the process of projecting movement onto the materials before a genuine M response was produced. In order for a kinesthetic accompaniment of the perceived activity to take place, the movement in question had necessarily to be an activity that could be engaged in by humans. When motion was vicariously experienced, which is what kinesthetic accompaniment would involve, it was Rorschach's view that this was evidence of an urge or wish to complete or produce a particular activity. Thus he felt that the kinesthetic response was evidence of a wish i.e., of an inner activity. If an activity was strongly wished or felt in fantasy it would be perceived or experienced through the ink-blots. The M response was therefore, in Rorschach's view, a substitute for activity which the subject would like to engage in but was for some reason inhibited or unable. Not only did Rorschach feel that kinesthetic responses were substitutes for activity but he thought too that if there was a tendency to engage in external activity there would be no need to seek vicarious experience for such activities in kinesthesias. Thus his conclusion was:

> "the more kinesthesias, the less physical activity; the more physical activity, the less kinesthesias ... Kinesthetic engrams therefore act as inhibitors of physical activity; motor activity inhibits kinesthetic engrams ... Kinesthesias stabilize the motility as well as the affectivity" (43, pp. 79, 80).

As a consequence of the foregoing views, Rorschach thought that the M response was characteristic of subjects who tended to function in the ideational sphere and whose interests were more toward intrapsychic living than to the world outside themselves. This included, he felt, all those, whether normal or ill, who would rather live in their own thoughts and fantasies than adapt to the world around them. He concluded that the subject who produced a significant number of kinesthesias had:

> "more individualized intelligence, greater creative ability, more 'inner' life, stable affective reactions, less adaptable to reality, more intensive than extensive rapport, measured stable motility, awkwardness and clumsiness" (43, p. 78).

Rorschach however differentiated between extensor and flexor movement responses, these being percepts of activity away from and toward the centers of the figure respectively. He appears to contradict his emphasis on M as representing inner living, and Piotrowski (37) in fact has accused him of this, in saying that subjects who see extensor movements are active individuals with a strong drive toward self-assertion, while those who see a predominance of flexor movements were passive, resigned, and neurasthenic. Probably Rorschach meant in both cases that the subject's inner living was in the aforementioned directions.

Essentially, then, Rorschach's view of the meaning of the M response was that it was involved with inner living, fantasy and wishful thinking, but that, as such, it gave the subject additional resources to cope with external circumstances, which he did not rely upon as much as another person. It is to be especially noted that there was a negative correlation between the M response and external activity, and that the M was evidence that a particular activity was not being

engaged in outwardly.

Samuel J. Beck

Beck (8,9) was one of the first to work with the Rorschach in America. He had previously studied the method under Oberholzer in Switzerland where he became, and has remained, a firm advocate of Rorschach and Oberholzer's original methods and interpretations. He has been very chary of accepting innovations into the Rorschach method that are not firmly rooted in the classical tradition. It might be said, in fact, that among American Rorschach practitioners Beck represents the more conservative element. His interpretation of the meaning of the M response, as would thus be expected, follows very closely to Rorschach's original interpretation. Thus to Beck, as to Rorschach, the M response indicates:

> "movements or activities that S is carrying on within his mental life. Since these mental activities are those in which we should like to engage in but cannot, or dare not, they are our wish fulfilling activities"(8, p. 92).

Beck considers that the kinesthetic nature of the M response is all-important, for in line with the view of the M as indicating wish-fulfilling activity the kinesthesia represents a wish or urge to act which is vicarious and thus is fulfilled through the perception on the blot rather than in outward activity. To Beck then, as to Rorschach, the projections represented by the M response, are definitely self-projections. He writes:

> "the fantasies in which people realize themselves have their own likenesses i.e., human forms, as heroes. Were we built in other shapes, it is likely that M would take these shapes" (8, p. 93).

In almost all respects Beck is so closely allied to Rorschach's original view of the meaning of the M response that it would be repetitious to dwell upon his viewpoint.

Ewald Bohm

Ewald Bohm is a European Rorschach practitioner whose book, A Textbook in Rorschach Test Diagnosis (12) has, at the time of this writing, just recently been translated into English by Anne and Samuel Beck. Since, in the light of Beck being its translator, the book apparently has his blessing it is probably well to follow Beck with Bohm. Beck implies in the translator's preface to this book that it might be taken to be fairly representative of the European approach to the Rorschach. This is most fortunate since, as Beck in fact notes, monolingual English-speaking clinicians have never had access to the great accumulation of Rorschach literature coming from Europe.

In the main, however, Bohm sheds little new light on the meaning of the M response that is not in the direct Rorschach tradition. He insists, most emphatically, that an M cannot be so classified unless and until a kinesthetic experience has taken place. Bohm holds to the classic Rorschach view that the movement must first be felt before M can be scored. The subject must live what he has seen, for the factor of identification is always present. He notes that the M response represents "the wealth of inner living" and that is not the physically active who produce many M's, but those whose motor trends are stabilized and who are given to substituting by way of inner living. Constraint on activity is what facilitates the M response. Though the M response arises out of inner living and reflection, it may result in a refashioning of the

outer world to bring it into line with needs and wishes determined innerly, or it may point to flight from reality. The former approach is seen in the extensor M, the latter in the flexor M. In either case the source of the M response, no matter how it finds avert expression, whether in creativity or escape from fantasy, begins in the inner life in terms of the individual's felt needs. The M response, in these terms, becomes a reflected tendency to act in a certain way and that tendency is felt as an urgency or as a desire, then projected onto an appropriate area of the blot material. The perceiver is therefore, and to that extent, identified with the percept which is a fulfillment of an inner need. In this view the subject's own needs and their fulfillment are the sole concern and the relation of the subject to the external world is entirely secondary, and is important only insofar as it serves the inner need.

Bruno Klopfer

Klopfer is probably the most influential exponent of the Rorschach method in the field today. He is the founder and editor of the Journal of Projective Techniques formerly the Rorschach Research Exchange; he is also the founder and a past president of the Rorschach Institute. In these capacities, the former particularly, he would be expected to be in close contact with almost all major developments in Rorschach research. His book, written in collaboration with Kelley (27) was, until superseded by his recent two volume work Developments in the Rorschach Technique (26), written in collaboration with Ainsworth, Walter Klopfer and Holt, probably the most widely used Rorschach manual and text-book in circulation, at least in America. It might be said of

Klopfer's approach to Rorschach's interpretation that he represents the middle-of-the-road, although in European circles particularly, it is often Klopfer who is referred to when remarks are made about radical and unjustifiable Rorschach speculation, scoring and interpretation (8). Certainly Klopfer's interpretation of the meaning of the M response is the broadest and most inclusive approach to its meaning extant. Klopfer considers that the M response has three basic features: (1) due to the fact that in attributing motion or activity to static blot materials i.e., motion that is not there in fact, an imaginal process is involved; (2) a human concept is involved in perceiving human movement, which implies an empathic process and an inclination to see a peopled world; (3) the ability to see activity in static ink-blots implies perception of a highly differentiated and well-integrated level, which is related to the function of intelligence. Klopfer says that "all the interpretative hypotheses stem from one or other of these three features of M perception" (26, p. 254). All three of these, says Klopfer, imply a relatively high level of ego functioning. The imaginal aspect of the M response, according to Klopfer, suggests a relatively free access to fantasy activities which, where existing alongside a good contact with reality, indicates a high level of integration. Thus the ego is able to accept and draw upon these fantasy resources and use them in creative problem-solving. The ability to empathize and identify with other humans, which in Klopfer's view is implicit in perceiving M, indicates the capacity for good object relations. A good contact with external reality is indicated, and thus a high level of ego operation, by the rather intricate differentiation, integration and perceptual accuracy of the typical M response. Thus, according to Klopfer, the M

response:

> "touches upon all of the most important aspects of the well-functioning personality, bridging the gap between inner resources of drive and fantasy and the outward orientation of reality testing and object relations" (27, p. 255).

Klopfer's view succeeds in covering both aspects of the rather opposing interpretations of M, earlier alluded to, in that he postulates it as being rooted in the imaginal resources of the personality, after Rorschach, Beck, et al, but he puts these imaginal resources to work, so to speak, in aiding the function of the ego in coping with the external world. The M response, to Klopfer, is oriented to the outer world however, for though he speaks of imaginal resources leading the subject to enliven the ink-blots, he makes the blots into a prototype of the external world; thus what is done with the blots is analogous to what is done with the external world. This is implied in Klopfer's treatment of M responses as representations of imaginal resources as creative solutions to problems whereby a solution which is unique and personal is brought to bear on them; if the subject is interested in people and inclined to identify and emphasize with others he tends to look for and see others in the world; if the subject is intelligent he tends to be able to differentiate and integrate different aspects of his environment in complex and even ingenious ways.

Klopfer's view of the M response is not based on the importance of kinesthesias to any appreciable degree. In fact they seem not to enter into his treatment of M at all, even though he does mention the kinesthetic aspect in his definition of the M response: "Score a main M for the inclusion of a kinesthetic quality in human concepts" (26, p. 100).

One searches in vain for any further mention of the kinesthetic nature of the M response, or, for that matter, any real need for the kinesthetic phenomenon in Klopfer's treatment and interpretation of the M response. The absence of the kinesthesia makes Klopfer's M qualitatively different from that of Rorschach and his close followers, at least in the direction in which their respective interpretations travel. A kinesthesia implies that the subject feels the response to some degrees, or experiences it vicariously in the process of its perception. Klopfer's relative lack of mention of kinesthesias in his interpretations of M indicates that he looks for no such projection of personal experience or wishful thinking onto the blots, but rather he sees the subject as looking at the blots as an onlooker, so to speak, rather than as a participant as in the Rorschach tradition. Klopfer is partially identified, as well, with those who view the M response as indicating interest in people. His interpretation of one aspect of M as indicating the capacity for good object relations due to emphatic tendencies and an inclination to see one's world as peopled can only mean that a dominant interest in people, and tendency to identify with them, leads to perceiving human movement in the blot materials. Such a view follows from Klopfer's way of interpreting the blots as a prototype of the environment which, because ambiguous is structured the way the external world is seen and handled.

Zygmunt A. Piotrowski

Zygmunt Piotrowski has long been associated with Bruno Klopfer through the Journal of Projective Techniques and the Rorschach Institute. He has become increasingly independent in his methods of scoring and

interpretation however. His views are being widely and increasingly attended to, particularly since the appearance of his book Perceptanalysis (37), for he has much to say that is interesting, provocative and enlightening on the Rorschach method. His views on M interpretation are of particular interest. In marked contrast to Rorschach, and his close followers, Piotrowski asserts that the correlation between the M response and overt behavior is positive. Says he:

> "the M represents the conception of life according to which the individual makes his adjustment to reality. The M stands for the most individual and integrated strivings which dominate the individual's life" (37, p. 149).

Piotrowski states unequivocally that fantasy, which is possible only when overt behavior is suppressed, is quite different, if not opposite, from a tendency which exercises "a direct though not an exclusive control over overt behavior" (37, p. 141), referring of course to Rorschach's and his own interpretations respectively of M. To him the M is likened to a steering mechanism "which directs the individual to play certain definite roles" especially in interpersonal relations that are vital to him (37, p. 141). The results of the M are always observable in the overt behavior of the subject, though with qualifications. Piotrowski defines M in terms of prototypal life roles which he further defines as "definite tendencies, deeply embedded in the subject and not easily modified, to assume repeatedly the same attitude or attitudes in dealing with others when matters felt to be important and personal are involved" (37, p. 141).

Even with such a concept of the M response as a positive correlate of acting out behavior as opposed to Rorschach's view of the M as the measure of the inner life of the individual Piotrowski is closer

to Rorschach, perceptually speaking, than is Klopfer, and far closer to the view that M indicates interest in people. To both Rorschach and Piotrowski the M response represents a personal identification of the subject with the percept: for Rorschach the percept was what the subject would like to be or to do; for Piotrowski the percept is what the subject conceives himself to be and is in fact. To those who hold that M indicates interest in people, or something to do with empathy, the percept is not identified with the perceiver, except insofar as empathy involves a kind of identification, rather the percept is "out there". This tends to be Klopfer's view of the M, as has already been pointed out. Thus there would appear to be two basic perceptual theories of the M response, one in which the percept and perceiver are identified vicariously, and the other in which perceiver and percepter are subject and object respectively. It therefore becomes important to resolve the issue as to what precisely occurs during the perception of the M response.

David Rapaport

One of the most widely respected theorists and practitioners in the entire field of psychology is David Rapaport (42). His work, though clinically oriented has a firm basis in experimental research. In dealing with the Rorschach test he has evolved a very provocative theory of the psychological correlates of the M response. Rapaport holds that there is no evidence to support the assumption that a kinesthetic experience is a prerequisite to the coming about of an M response (42). Furthermore, he holds, a kinesthesia is not necessary to explain what happens concomitant to the M response. In his view, when an M

response occurs it is because an imbalance is perceived so that, by a change of position or movement, it would become more balanced, or "closure" would be achieved. A perceptual sensitivity to formal imbalance is present together with a certain flexibility in perceptual organizing processes in order to allow or to call for such an "articulation" or added embellishment of the ink-blots. Once the perceptual imbalance has obtruded itself upon the perceiver a high degree of perceptual organization as well as a flexible wealth of associative processes is required in order to cope with it. The movement response is thus the most successful and ingenious manner of coping with the perception of imbalance, which perception according to Gestalt psychology leads to a tendency to reorganize the perceptual field to bring about a more stable or balanced percept. In being able to reach such a solution the following are indicated: (1) there is an indication that the associative processes possess enough variability and wealth to supply content sufficient to produce an appropriate resolution to the problem presented by the imbalance, for a process of motion must occur and be accounted for. Thus a high degree of integration is required: (2) in order to achieve a resolution of the imbalance there must occur a shift from the perception of the imbalanced object to an image-like internal experience of the balanced position of the percept. Thus the perceiver must complete the imbalance by means of an internal change of the image so that, in effect, he substitutes a meaningful percept of a human in motion, not in suspended animation which he has manufactured using the raw material of the imbalanced percept.

The great amount of problem-solving activity made up of associative integration and perceptual anticipation and organization calls

for considerable delay before a solution to the imbalance in perception is achieved. The entire process in the formation of the M response Rapaport relates to thinking out and delaying behavior in the handling of impulses and is opposed to acting out behavior. Furthermore the delay between the impulse and its discharge is the very essence of the function of the ego. The well-developed ego is able to go beyond the immediate tension experience as well as delay, curb, deflect or reject impulses for the benefit of the organism. Thus the M response is found in those individuals who are particularly adept at delaying the discharge of impulses, even to the extent of falling victim to paralyzing indecision and excessive fantasying. It is ideational activity that occurs in M activity for the M implies an anticipation of the most stable relationships in the area chosen, just as thought processes have the function of anticipating various pathways toward the object of an impulse and the dangers implied in seeking them. Since the M type of activity is implicit in all ego activity it is found in everyone, but the quality and amount of M on a subject's Rorschach is a measure of the intensity and amount of ideational activity carried on by the subject. Rapaport says that the M is a natural endowment and by this he means that when it occurs in a "normal" context it may show up as creativeness or as a tendency to be ruminative; in a neurotic context M may show up as an indication of obsessions and/or phobias; in the psychotic context they may show as delusion formation. He also notes that the M response flourishes neither in inhibition nor in impulsiveness, both of which are coarctative in regard to M, but rather it is found where there is a "freedom of impulse from inhibition and yet a delay of impulse preventing impulsiveness".

Rapaport's views on the meaning of the M response are not overtly different from the views of Rorschach and his immediate followers including Beck. He is in agreement with these people in that the M is related to ideational activity, fantasy life, in a world of inner living, and is negatively correlated with outgoing activity and impulsiveness, where Rapaport disagrees with Rorschach's original view is in his total disregard for the necessity of the kinesthetic accompaniment of the M response in favor of a purely ideational cause of the M in that the subject solves the problem presented by an imbalanced percept. The latter view means that the M does not relate to the identification of the perceiver with the percept except accidentally, and insofar as the perceiver chooses percepts that have personal significance. The latter is undoubtedly a factor in the choice of what areas will be given M responses, although, as far as could be gathered Rapaport makes no mention of this possibility. Nonetheless the subject remains detached from the percept, an onlooker who chooses and abrogates interesting and meaningful areas for personal reasons. Thus Rapaport stands closer to what shall be called the bystander theory of Klopfer than to the identification theory of Rorschach, Piotrowski and others.

Phillips and Smith

In their book on Advanced Rorschach Interpretation (35), Phillips and Smith follow a view of the meaning of the M response that is similar in many ways to the view held by Piotrowski of M as an indicator of the subject's role-in-life. They note, with obvious agreement with Schachtel that "the content of the movement response is not selected fortuitously but reflects the same determining tendencies which direct the establish-

ment of interpersonal relationships characteristic for the individual" (35, p. 58).

They state unequivocally that "all movement responses with the possible exception of those in which the content is abstract reflect some aspect of role-taking and assigning" (35, p. 60). The role-taking and assigning aspect of behavior is linked by Phillips and Smith to flexibility in self-expression, being able to assume a variety of behavioral postures and attitudes and to respond appropriately in changing situations. The M response is definitely related to self-expression in their view and the number and variety of M responses, especially when conventional as well as unique M's are given is a measure of the extent and variety of roles that the subject is able to assume, always of necessity in the interpersonal situation. They further state that the individual who gives many M responses is thereby expressing a wide variety of attitudes and roles which is the range of trial identifications available to him. Furthermore "if M is interpreted as a vehicle for trial identifications or empathic participation then all movement responses must be self-identifications" (35, p. 62).

The M also reflects sensitivity to others as individualized personalities rather than as things that exist only to gratify immediate needs. It also implies self-expression in conformance with long-range goals for it is the first determinant to be restricted when immediate problems and anxiety increase.

Thus far Phillips and Smith's interpretation of M is in no way different from Piotrowski's. They do insist however that social roles arise as a result of being able to identify, empathize and in fact vicariously take the roles of others in various situations.

They state too that though the presence of M is related to attitudes of sensitivity and evaluation in interpersonal relations and when M occurs in association with adequate affective responsivity it "implies an effective and constructive social adjustment" (35, p. 71). Thus in their view many M's indicate activity in interpersonal situations. Though more completely centered upon the importance of M in revealing the nature of interpersonal relations they too hold basically to the identification theory of the M response in the Rorschach tradition and have little to add to it except that they mention the importance of positive relationships with people in establishing the basis of role taking and assigning. In their interpretation, especially important for purposes of this thesis they stress the importance of positive interpersonal relationships, as the soil, so to speak, from which the M response arises.

Bochner and Halpern

In their book The Clinical Application of the Rorschach Test (11) Bochner and Halpern hold to a view of the M response that is essentially the same as that held by Rorschach. They say that a movement response stems from an emotional experience that has its roots in the "inner life" of the subject. Its major components are identification and inner creativity. The individual in an M response is working from within himself outward, and his experiences to that extent are determined by this tendency. Identification refers to putting oneself in the place of another or into different situations. This may stem from wishful thinking or take place in reality. Either way the identification arises from the needs of the individual. Bochner and Halpern also state that the subject's projection of himself into other people and situations

becomes a part of his daily living. Such a process of identification would appear to involve becoming involved with other people and thus interested in them. The authors say as much: "To give a human movement response denotes an ability to see and to identify oneself with others..." (11, p. 41). They also state that it is very important to note what kind of person the subject identifies with and what the nature of the identification is. Thus to Bochner and Halpern the M response represents the subject's projection of what is most individually and intimately his own identification of himself, especially the more elaborate the description and definite the movement. In holding to the identification theory of the M response however they point that identification involves a strong interest in other people so that, in their view, a high correlation would be expected between the M response and interest in people for they hold that the former does not exist without the latter.

Frederick Allen

Allen is a Rorschach practitioner whose work has been appearing in the journals with increasing regularity and who has published two books on Rorschach practice and interpretation respectively Introduction to the Rorschach Technique (1) and Elements of Rorschach Interpretation (2). In his view the M response is related to freedom from the rigid realism of the stimulating material such that it provides a source for adjustment. It implies a tolerance of ambiguity in the moving about of the materials in order to provide oneself with a fresh and more meaningful solution to the problem presented by the stimulus. This must occur within the context of reality otherwise control is below optimum and fantasy living

takes over. Thus in Allen's view the M response indicates resources for actual and potential adjustment, tolerance for accepting change and the extent to which the subject can compromise and be flexible within the bounds of a reality situation. The M represents the projection of the subject's self-image and thus represents self-perceptions that are on the level of awareness and, in fact, the actual role which the subject is playing. The M indicates as well the capacity for human identifications. From the M the tester is able to derive the subject's self-percepts, acceptable and alien and his attitude toward human figures in his environment. The form level of the percept is the key to the degree of contact with reality inherent in the percept. These are views many of which are almost identical to those held by Piotrowski.

To Allen, then, the meaning of the M response is twofold. On one hand the ability to produce an M implies flexibility and a relative independence from the environment making for good adjustive potential. On the other hand the M is the subject's representation of himself and his role-in-life, as well as his attitude toward others. In a sense Allen's view owes something to Rapaport's view of the M process, and to the identification theory of the M relating more to Piotrowski's view of the active role which the M points to rather than to the fantasy life especially, which he holds however to be indicated when form accuracy breaks down.

W. Mons

In his little book Principles and Practice of the Rorschach Personality Test (34) Mons says that the M response indicates the capacity to absorb experience and benefit by it, utilize it, or think

purposefully about problems, or else to submerge all desire in fantasy pictures. He holds to the view that M reflects the inner life, the mental activities and their level. Thus Mons holds that M points to the capacities of the ego to deal effectively with the environment. In the short space that he gives to the meaning of the M he does not dwell upon its perceptual basis but seems to hold to the onlooker view of its meaning in the sense of manipulating the environment i.e., the blots, to particular needs.

Roy Schafer

Schafer has worked extensively with Rapaport and in fact collaborated with him in the writing of Diagnostic Psychological Testing (42). Schafer's most recent book, at the time of the present writing, was Psychoanalytic Interpretation in Rorschach Testing (44). This book deals with the Rorschach mostly from the point of view of content analysis. In his treatment of the M response however Schafer says that it is "related to the capacity for delay of impulse and for interposing thought and reflection between impulse and action" (44, p. 341). In this respect he is similar to Rapaport as might be expected. Schafer's view is a psychoanalytic one and one based on the thought processes that lead to M rather than on its perceptual basis. The perceiver is not identified with the percept in his view but again seems to be detached from it for the emphasis is placed on the problem-solving aspects of M.

Ernest Schachtel

Ernest Schachtel (44), like Rorschach holds that, in perceiving human movement within the Rorschach ink-blots, the subject experiences in himself the kinesthetic activity perceived in the ink-blots. This

experience is related to that of kinesthetic empathy with another person. Schachtel agrees with Rorschach in saying that the M response is related to the inhibition of motor activity. The striving expressed in the kinesthetic response Schachtel says is related to dissatisfaction regarding certain needs. Instead of being carried out, the kinesthetic percept occurs in the company of arrested motor innervations. As a substitute for being carried out these innervations lead to empathy with appropriate movement observed in the environment or to kinesthetic imagery as in the M response or as in dreams where motor activity is suspended by sleep.

Since the movement perceived in the ink-blot derives from a static object, such movement is entirely a projection on the part of the subject. The subject projects a movement which he experiences within himself and since kinesthetic sensations are the only way in which man has direct contact with himself such sensations are intimately connected with the central layers of personality. The subject is thus projecting and perceiving such movements and postures as relate to the expression of basic attitudes of his own personality.

In projecting, the subject attributes his own feelings, experiences, attitudes and strivings onto objects of his environment, in this case static ink-blots. This may lead to either accurate or inaccurate evaluation of the presence of projected qualities in objects of the environment. Projection is distorting, says Schachtel, where it is defensive or tangential, that is where, as in the Freudian sense qualities are ascribed to the object which the subject is unaware of in himself or where unimportant qualities are given undue significance. Projection need not be distorting however, since, says Schachtel, men are basically similar to one another. Since, furthermore, projection of one's own experiences onto others is the

only way man has of gaining an inner understanding of the experiences of others, the accuracy of projection plays an all-important role in all empathic relationships with others.

Thus the number, type and quality of M responses in a Rorschach protocol demonstrates the extent to which the subject tends to relate himself to his environment by projecting himself onto aspects of it. The extent to which these projections are free from distorting fears and reflect instead the subject's awareness and acceptance of himself, his projections or M responses will indicate his ability to relate himself empathically to others. The M response therefore measures the capacity for empathic projection which is seen by Schachtel as the basis for all inner relatedness to the environment.

Schachtel's theory of M as relating to projecting of the subject kinesthetically fits in with the identification theory within the framework of this thesis. Interest in people would relate to attitudes expressed and as such would be found in the content of the M rather than in the M response as such.

CHAPTER III

SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE - continued

Research on the M response

Very few studies have been carried out on the relation between the M response and interest in people. However many Rorschach theorists and practitioners have either assumed, or stated rather uncritically that the M response indicated an interest in people. Such statements are not unnatural for common sense, if nothing else might lead to the assumption that there is a connection between interest in people and the propensity for filling an ambiguous stimulus material with human figures. Yet an examination of the Rorschach literature, with special emphasis on the research connected with the M response shows that only one study has been performed which explicitly sets out to measure the extent of any correspondence between, not M but the H percentage, which are usually, by American standards of scoring M, very nearly identical, and interest in people. One other study set out to correlate the H percentage to the erlebnystyp (M:C ratio). It was to offset this discrepancy between the common sense assumption that M indicates interest in people and the paucity of empirical research on such a supposed relationship that the present study was undertaken.

In Catherine Burnham's study (17), which was the attempt to correlate H percentage with interest in people, the Picture Arrangement subtest of the Wechsler Bellevue Intelligence Scale was used as the measure of interest in people. She used this subtest for her measure of the latter because Wechsler himself said that it measured interest

in people and most clinicians tend to assume that it does. Using a group of 90 adult male mental hygiene patients she found no significant correlation. However, in largely dismissing her findings as being of little or no consequence, it must be said that there is no evidence other than the opinions of Wechsler and many clinicians that the Picture Arrangement subtest measures "social intelligence" or even that there is such an entity (which Wechsler in fact doubts) or that if there is it is related to interest in people. Rapaport, who has made the only thorough attempt to determine what this subtest measures concludes that rather than social intelligence, or a related factor, it measures the ability to plan or anticipate (42). Burnham's study therefore sheds no real light on the relation of the M response to interest in people, for there is no evidence that she is comparing H percentage with interest in people.

Kandinski's attempt to relate the H percentage to erlebnystyp began with the statement: "It has long been taken for granted that the presence of human responses on Rorschach records, both whole figures and human detail reflects interest in other human beings" (24, p. 140). After a systematic analysis however he was forced to conclude that "the egocentric and impulsive affective urges subside with growing H percentage, but the adaptive affectivity is not markedly influenced by these changes" (24, p. 143). The latter finding contraindicates an interpretation of the H percentage as demonstrating interest in people. If a person is not sufficiently interested in others that it leads to an increase in adaptive affectivity (FC) then it must be concluded, and these are Kandinski's conclusions, that H reflects an interest in the subject's own inner life.

Hertzman and Pearce (23), working with only twelve cases, studied the personal meaning of the human figures as seen by subjects in the Rorschach materials. They found that 80 percent of them were classified into such categories as "self-identification" or "self-identification plus attitude toward the world", "characteristics of interpersonal relationships", "the world around one", and "parents and parent substitutes". These findings are interesting but not very explicit.

This concludes the research on the attempts to find the relation between the M response or the H percentage and variations of interest in people. However there is a considerable body of research concerned with attempting to discover what the M response does indicate and the remainder of the present survey of the literature will be an examination of these attempts. The present study, after all, is concerned with shedding some light on the overall significance of the M response by testing one popular hypothesis as to its significance. Also, many of the experimental findings concerned with the meaning of the M response have a direct bearing, from a perceptual point of view, as to whether there is a rationale whereby the M response could indicate interest in people. The M response as the perceiver seeing what he wants to see, here called the onlooker theory of the M, is directly related to the possibility or likelihood of M measuring interest in people. If the onlooker theory stands up then it is very likely that there is a relation between M and interest in people. If, on the contrary the identification theory, whereby the perceiver sees what he would like to be, holds up then there need be no relationship whatever between M and interest in people.

Altus and Thompson (5) performed a study in which they found that there was enough of a positive correlation between the M response

and general intelligence that they were able to say that while the absence of M did not always contraindicate high intelligence, presence of a sizable number of M (six or more at the college level) was found only where intelligence was high so that many M responses, become prima facie, an indication of superior intelligence, and M is definitely correlated with intelligence. It was not within the scope of the study to delineate how or why this was so.

William Altus and Grace Thompson Altus (4) discovered that, further to the correlation between M and intelligence, the correlation tends to be a function of the unstereotyped, somewhat original M response rather than the Popular M. This finding would be in line with the view that to produce an M response a high degree of integrative and associative activity is required. Presumably the more of this ability, in other words intelligence, the more and better M.

A group comprised of several people which seem always to have included either Meltzoff or Singer have performed a very interesting series of studies in which they seek to demonstrate that there is a relation between the M response and various forms of inhibition. In one, Singer, Meltzoff and Goldman (48) tested M productivity following inhibition and hyperactivity respectively. The former consisted of having subjects "freeze" in place in an awkward position; the latter consisted of five minutes of vigorous calisthenics. It was found that M productivity was significantly increased after the inhibition task over that of the control group and the hyperactivity group. M did not decrease in the hyperactivity group. The results therefore tend to confirm the original Rorschach hypothesis that M is an outgrowth of prior inhibition. Perhaps when physical activity is inhibited, the only outlet becomes mental

activity, thus giving rise to M responses, which are assumedly the results of an inner activity. Meltzoff, Singer and Korchin (32) found similar results in another form of voluntary motor inhibition. In this case it was writing as slowly as possible. They concluded on the basis of their findings in this study that there was a direct relationship between the inhibition of motor activity and the production of M responses on the Rorschach.

Singer and Spohn (49) correlated the M response with motor inhibition, this time in the form of slow writing but of amount of activity in a waiting room during a fifteen minute period. The high M group showed significantly longer inhibition time and lower waiting room activity than did the low M group leading the writers to the conclusion that M productivity is related to the ability to control and inhibit motor activity.

Singer and Hermann (47) found on the basis of a series of tasks that subjects high in M productivity differed from low M subjects in the following respects: longer inhibition in writing tasks, less spontaneous activity in a waiting room task, and what they refer to as greater transcendence of stimulus content in five TAT cards, as well as fewer errors in a cancellation task and a greater tendency toward thinking introversively on the Guilford scale. They therefore concluded that their results supported the hypothesis that motor inhibition is related to the capacity for imaginative and fantasy activity, both of which are related to M productivity. The writers of this study add that motor inhibition is related to the capacity to control the future through imagery and planned activity i.e., the ability to "hold back" and mentally work out a more satisfactory solution to a problem.

Meltzoff and Litwin (30) were able to show that the relationship between M productivity and inhibition extends to the inhibition or control of affect as well as motor activity. They asked subjects to voluntarily inhibit the expression of an experimentally induced impulse to laugh. It was also found, contrary to what had been expected that the subjects adapted to the required task first by motor control, only later supplemented by cognitive methods of control, rather than the reverse suggesting that perhaps the whole matter of M production, cognitive activity, affective and motor inhibition are related to one another.

Meltzoff, Levine, and Glass (31) found that those who produce the reverse N of the Digit Symbol subtest of the Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Scale thereby demonstrate insufficient delay or control of response tendencies. Such subjects were found to produce significantly fewer M responses than were controls. Reversers were also shown to be less adept than controls in the ability to inhibit an old association and rapidly substitute a new one for it (Meltzoff and Levine 29 examined the latter in greater detail in a separate study). The mean I.Q. of the reversers was also found to be significantly lower than for the controls. The authors suggest as a consequence of this that the correlation between M and intelligence leads to the conclusion that the delay function of the ego, or inhibiting ability may relate to intelligence.

The M response is linked by Levine and Meltzoff (28)in summarizing their findings, to the psychoanalytic theory of ego formation wherein the gradual shift from the primary to the secondary process involves the delay and control of impulse expression, followed by the substitution of symbolization, fantasy, planning and thinking as "experimental actions" in place of an immediate, unreflective response on a behavioral level.

The foregoing data involving inhibitions point, according to Levine and Meltzoff to the relation and interdependence of impulse delay, emphatic motion perception, fantasy and thinking.

Rudolf Arnheim (7) attempts to reconcile many of the apparent contradictions with respect to variations between clinical and experimental findings in an article that is theoretical but provocative. He suggests that M responses might be produced by two different types of persons. One type "strongly feels the visual dynamics of percepts because he is passionately interested in the outwide world and experiences its properties sharply and fully" (7, p. 277). The richness of his experiences would account for the breadth of his associations available, his thinking and his lack of rigid stereotypes. The range of his apperceptions would correspond to the range of the phenomena he has met in his experiences. This person is open-minded, curious and adaptable. On the other hand, the second type of M person would be one for whom the Rorschach stimuli sets inner activities into motion. "He responds to the outside world to the extent to which he rediscovers himself in it" (7, p. 278) To this person perceptual stimulation leads to speculation and internally motivated associations. His imagination is involved with fantasies and subjective productions only slightly connected to the environmental experiences which gave rise to it. Such a person, says Arnheim, would respond to the blot stimuli on the basis of kinesthesias. Undoubtedly Arnheim is correct in much of what he says although it would seem as if perhaps the former type might be more akin to Rorschach's MC person. Arnheim's first type of individual is looking at the blots as he does the external world, thus he fits the onlooker theory of the M, while the second type of person who fulfills his own needs within the blots seems

to fit the identification theory of the M response. The first person would probably be interested in people, not so the second person.

Klein and Schlesinger (25) say that the readiness to see human movement in the blot materials is an expression of the degree to which reality testing requires the stability of known forms. The M response is thus an index of:

> "a person's readiness to accept a compromise solution to a task in visual organization, how much tampering he permits himself with things as they are known to be for the sake of experience or comfort, or more generally how well he can tolerate an unstable or ambiguous state to a perceptual problem" (25, p. 29).

As such the M response would be expected to relate to a subordination of the external situation to the subject's inner needs. If this relation were optimal it would surely bespeak a healthy adjustment. At one extreme however, lack of such tolerance would indicate need-denial while at the other an escapist flight from reality into fantasy. Thus an optimal number and quality of M responses would be an excellent indication of a happy balance between the demands of the external situation and the needs of the subject pressing for expression. The foregoing view does not require that the perceiver be identified with the perceived, and is related to Rapaport's view that the blot materials present the subject with a problem in perception which he attempts to solve in characteristic manner, all the while selecting and perceiving according to his own needs.

Bieri and Blacker (13) hypothesized that since color is an aspect of the blot that is physically present in the blot as a stimulus, whereas movement represents an internal stimulus factor having no intrinsic representation in the blot material, the former is immediately

utilizable in producing a response but the latter requires, in addition, an intermediate level of response. The intervention of such an intermediate process means that more time would be needed to produce a movement response than for a color response. This correlates with behavioral expectations in that M responses supposedly relate to an absence, or delay of acting out whereas color responses indicate more immediate response activity. In accordance with their hypothesis Bieri and Blacker found that subjects in the M > Sum C group generally had significantly longer reaction times in their overall Rorschach performance than did subjects in the Sum C > M group.

Singer, Wilensky and McCraven (50) performed a rather thorough factor analytic study in which they correlated a battery of procedures measuring a wide variety of performances ranging from fantasy capacity as seen in story-telling, perception of human movement in ink-blots, planning in a maze test, slow writing, and controlled motility, all ostensibly related to the capacity for imaginal living and control or delay of impulsive motility. They found that, though previous findings in these areas tended to be supported, the initial hypothesis of a fantasy-motility dimension had been over-simplified. Two separate and relatively uncorrelated factors were found to be correlated with the production of M responses, one involving motor control and the other ideational activity. This discovery led them to conclude, in some degree of similarity to Arnheim's postulate, that possibly at least two types of person seems to be characterized by the ability to restrain and delay impulsive activity, and to plan ahead and cooperate for their own good in the hospital situation where the study under consideration was carried out. The other group in the study that correlated highly with M productivity

was characterized as too withdrawn into introspectiveness, self-evaluation or artistic reverie to make use of their potentialities effectively for motor control and planfulness. The authors add that further study must be made into the nature of M responses in order to determine whether differences in content or elaboration of the percept may account for the association of M responses with two separate patterns of response.

Thus far the experimental findings on the meaning of M point to a noticeable lack of necessary connection between human content per se and the human movement response. The findings seem to indicate rather, that the M response is a phenomenon which arises out of the ability to, in effect, add something to a stationary object of perception in order to make the percept more meaningful in terms of personal needs and abilities. The M response seems to be related to ego function much in the way that Rapaport indicated (42).

What is, in many ways, the most thorough and provocative attempt to understand the entire phenomenon of apparent motion is the view held by Heinz Werner and Seymour Wapner (54). They have entitled their view the sensory-tonic field theory of perception. Werner, who of the two has written more on this view, maintains that there is a dynamic relationship or an interaction between the organism and the object "out there" such that there is a constant striving, on the part of the organism for a state of equilibrium between the two. He speaks of a vicariousness of function which occurs when there is a threat to this state of equilibrium. By this he means that in inverse correlation to a tonic expression of motion there occurs a sensory perception of motion (tonus refers to the state of organismic tension as evidenced by visceral and somatic reactivity). The state of equilibrium, which is the goal of the organism

in its interaction with the environment, means that when the tonic expression of motion is blocked, then to the degree to which it is blocked, there occurs a lowered sensory threshold in the perception of motion, in other words, a rise in the tendency to perceive motion. Conversely, if bodily energy is released in greater motor activity, the threshold of sensory perception of motion is raised. Thus "sensory-tonic" energy always finds release, either through body movement or in perceptual displacement or apparent movement. A theory such as this has considerable bearing upon the understanding of the perception of motion which occurs in the Rorschach. Werner has accumulated a body of evidence to support his theoretical view. He reports (53) that in using the auto kinetic effect under three conditions, immobilization, control and increased motor activity, there was found to be respectively an increase in the time taken to perceive motion. An experiment is also reported in which subjects were asked to hold the eye stationary; this led to a tendency to perceive motion, in contrast to vigorous eye activity which was followed by a decrease in the tendency to perceive motion (54). An experiment was also performed in which line drawings of such things as a train and a baseball player were submitted tachistoscopically to subjects some of whom were asked to press vigorously against a punch board and others of whom made no such muscular exertion. The number of movement responses to the drawings reported by the former group was significantly smaller than for the latter group. Thus there would seem to be some experimental evidence in support of Werner's view of the dynamic interaction between expression and perception of motion. In all of his experiments as in most of the previously cited experiments, perception of motion is related to the absence of activity, whether this

absence relates to a delaying, inhibiting, thinking or creating function, as related to an organismic need.

The evidence to date points unmistakably to the positive correlation between the vicissitudes of physical inactivity and the perception of motion. Furthermore it is a fairly simple matter to relate these phenomena to the delaying and problem-solving activities of the ego. This evidence however has little to say on any reason for the appearance of humans specifically in the response which indicates the highest level of ego activity. If, as the evidence indicates the perception of motion per se points to a delaying or inhibiting process why is the factor of human movement so necessary rather than any other perception of motion? The answer to this question goes largely begging in a theory such as that of Rapaport or even Werner both of which stress the perception of movement as being of such importance in and of itself, if not explicitly then certainly implicitly. What part then does the human figure play in the M response? For the answers to this question an examination must be made of the evidence accumulated in another area of study, that of the effect of values upon perception.

Possibly best known of all the studies on the relation between perception and the value of the perceived object is Bruner and Goodman's now classic experiment (15). They found that children tended to overvalue the size of valued objects, in the case of Bruner and Goodman's study, coins. They found furthermore that economically poor children overvalued the size of coins significantly more than did children from economically comfortable backgrounds.

Bruner (14) states that perception is an activity of the total organism which serves two functions, one of which is in constructing a

world in which survival and adjustment are possible, the other is in defending against that which is threatening, distracting or disruptive. These two processes, says Bruner, serve reciprocally to maximize sensitivity to certain classes of events, and to dampen or hinder sensitivity to others. In a similar vein, Postman, Bruner and McGinnies (38) give evidence to show that value orientation gives rise to perceptual sensitization to valued stimuli and to perceptual defense against inimical stimuli such that the person responds in terms of objects valuable to himself even when such objects are absent from his immediate environment. They maintain that the process of selectivity must be considered in any comprehensive perceptual theory.

Gilchrist, Ludeman and Lysak (19) found that both positive and negative values lowered word-recognition thresholds in comparison with neutral values. Precker (39) found that subjects tended to choose peers and near-authority figures whose values resembled their own.

McGinnies (33) found that subjects associated more readily to high-valued words than to little-valued words. Such trends, says McGinnies, may indicate the operation of a mechanism of "value resonance" at the association level whereby the subject has a general set to respond in terms of his major values i.e., he makes associations which are congruent with his value orientation. Postman, Bruner and McGinnies (38) found that when stimulus words reflecting the same values as the subject's preferred hypotheses are presented to him, they are recognized more rapidly since, the authors conclude, they conform to his general set to respond in terms of his major values. Vanderplas and Blake (52) found, in attempting to study the effect upon auditory perception, that subjects perceived words representing their high value areas at significantly lower intensity

levels than words representing their low value areas.

The aforementioned studies all lend support to the theory of perceptual sensitization which says that there is a lowered threshold of sensitivity to that which is valued. Woodruff (56) defines value as "any object, condition or activity which the individual feels has an effect on his well-being". In holding to what he calls a "concept value theory of human behavior" Woodruff says that when an imbalance occurs in an individual he becomes susceptible to stimuli which have some relation to the imbalance. The individual will then interpret the stimulating situation according to his pattern of meaning and will react in a way calculated to produce the greatest satisfaction. His reaction will be determined by any need which is operating at the time, any concepts and preferences related to the situation, the possibilities of the situation, the value concepts involved and the chance of achieving one or more of them on an immediate or delayed basis.

Woodruff is actually saying the same thing as Postman, Bruner, McGinnies, et. al., that personal needs or values shape the perception of reality as nearly as reality will allow, that is if the person is to remain in contact with reality. At the conclusion of their famous study Bruner and Goodman (15) say that perceptual objects which are habitually selected, have greater clarity, greater brightness or greater apparent size and that the greater the equivocality or ambiguity in the perceptual field, the greater the chance for behavioral factors in perception to operate, all other things being equal.

In her well-known studies of scientists with the Rorschach Anne Roe (41) noted that the most striking aspect of her results was the large difference between all psychologists and the other scientists

in the study in the use of the M response, psychologists using more. Roe attributed this to what she called the preoccupation or interest, from childhood M, of psychologists with other persons (not to speak of course of the obvious fact that most psychologists are well aware of the relative desirability of the M response). In her view the M response is definitely an indication of interest in people. As far as could be gathered no other Rorschach practitioner states this opinion so unequivocally (though in fact many if not most clinicians in the writer's experience, use the number and type of M responses to discover the patient's interest in and attitude toward people). Perceptually speaking such a view is related to that postulated and demonstrated by Postman, Bruner, McGinnies, et. al., that interest or value largely determines what is perceived in the environment.

Two equally imposing, equally substantiated yet apparently exclusive views seem to exist, both of which give rise to certain expectations with regard to the significance of the M response. One view, substantiated mostly with the Rorschach, leads to the conclusion that M is closely if not directly related to the delaying, inhibiting, problem-solving thought processes of the ego in dealing with the conflict between impulse expression and the demands of the external world. In relating the M response to a compromise between a perceptual imbalance and a need, desire or ability to delay response until the imbalance is given "closure" or righted, the M is related to the function of the ego which, when confronted by an undesirable impulse, is able to postpone gratification until a compromise between impulse demand and environmental situation can be realized. The presence of the human figure in the resulting percept seems to be secondary, with the primary emphasis being placed

upon the ingenuity of the achievement of motion as a solution to the perceptual problem. The reason that the human movement response is said to be superior to say an animal movement response, except by those emphasizing the importance of kinesthesias in the M, seems to relate to the added perceptual complexity of the human percept as opposed to the relative ease of the animal percept. The other equally substantiated view, validated mostly in perceptual problems not directly related to the Rorschach, but certain bearing upon it shows that interest or value in certain objects leads to a tendency to perceive them in an ambiguous or unstructured situation. Studies supporting this view give evidence which suggests that the sensory threshold is lowered with the result that sensitivity is increased toward desired or valued objects in the perceptual field. The results of studies supporting this viewpoint lead to the expectation that in a perceptually ambiguous field which the Rorschach presents there should be a tendency to perceive objects of value, desire or interest. Thus if a person sees people in action or interaction in the blot materials, presumably he is interested in people. Little mention is made here of the factor of motion and of the level of integration called for in achieving such a solution; primary emphasis is placed, in this explanation on the presence of the human figure in the percept.

Little concern seems to be felt over the apparent contradiction between these two equally applicable interpretations of the M response for no mention is made in the literature that there is any contradiction. It cannot be denied however that the two explanations do not entirely gibe with one another. Using one explanation, the delay one, a large number of M responses in a Rorschach protocol leads to the interpretation,

other factors being equal, that a largely ideational, introverted, perhaps ruminative, perhaps inhibited but very intelligent person is being dealt with. On the other hand, with the interest explanation a high M column indicates that such a subject is quite interested in or preoccupied with human relationships and could therefore be outgoing and gregarious. The latter expectation is not favored by most leading Rorschach practitioners yet in view of the experimental evidence on the effect of values and interests upon perception there seems no valid reason why such an explanation might not be used.

Roe (41), who is apparently unaware of such a conflict and contradiction in the experimental evidence on the meaning of M, has nevertheless given an interpretation of the genesis of interests that may have some bearing on the contradiction, if one does exist. Her interpretation may in fact contain the seeds of a rapprochement between the two views. Roe says that drives which have been most effectively frustrated will be the ones which will later be most highly motivated, hence most highly valued. This is providing that the frustration is not overwhelming. Long or severe frustration ending in satisfaction will tend, she says, to give greater impact. This is because of greater contrast between the states of deprivation and satisfaction (greater reinforcement) than would immediate satisfaction, hence such needs will be more effective motivators in the future.

Roe goes on to hypothesize that a child who is loved adequately and approved of, but who is not made the focus of any intense personal relationship, is able to allow his interests to focus upon other objects in the environment. If on the other hand the child is involved in intense personal relationships, positive or negative, his attention may

be focussed upon them, frequently giving rise to later conflict which leads to preoccupations revolving around interpersonal relationships. Such interests and preoccupations give rise to special abilities and choice of occupations, as well presumably as the perception of human movement or the Rorschach. An explanation such as this seems to tie together the factor of interest in interpersonal relationships and the fact that the very presence of an interest indicates a prior need. Thus the M response might point to the presence of a need for expression giving rise to interest in interpersonal relations, i.e., people.

While such an explanation may be the beginnings of a rapprochement between the interest and the need interpretations it still leaves many questions unanswered. Still quite unresolved is the discrepancy between the "identification" theory of the M and the "onlooker" theory. The former, it will be remembered was seen in those who identified the percept of human movement with the perceiver, while the latter saw the perceiver as largely solving a problem in perception. It would seem that the conflict between interest and need theories of M are brought out very clearly when compared with the identification and onlooker theories. The onlooker theory is readily identified with the interest theory. In both of these one looks at the stimulus and sees certain things determined by a compromise between the nature of the materials and interests which give structure to the materials. Of course it might also be successfully argued that one is most interested in one's own activities, in which case the identification theory becomes related to the interest theory. The identification theory however is readily connected with the need theory whereby the perceiver becomes identified with the percept which is in effect the solution to his problem or need.

The latter view is most explicitly and comprehensively stated, by Heinz Werner. It is the view also of Rorschach and Beck as well as that of Piotrowski among the major Rorschach theorists. The interest-onlooker view mostly coincides with that of Klopfer.

Though, therefore, there can be somewhat of a rapprochement between the need and interest theories based on the experimental evidence, after Roe, the theoretical discrepancy between the identification and onlooker theories remains thus far irreconcilable. The only way therefore to shed further light upon these discrepancies would seem to be by an experiment. Since, on one hand there is already a body of evidence in favor of the "need" theory using the Rorschach as a direct comparison, and since furthermore, the interest theory evidence has not thus far made comparisons with the Rorschach it would seem that the interest theory should be tested. It is therefore the purpose of the present study to examine the relationship between interest in people and the Rorschach M response.

CHAPTER IV

THE VALIDATION STUDY OF THE RORSCHACH M RESPONSE

The foregoing chapters have dealt with the literature pertaining to the attempts to arrive at the meaning and significance of the human movement response in the Rorschach test. Both clinical and experimental evidence has been used in these attempts. The experiment here presented is designed to discover whether there is any such significant relationship between the M response and interest in people, as some Rorschach practitioners have explicitly stated to exist. The present chapter includes a discussion of the purposes of the experiment, the basis of comparison, the subject data, and the experimental procedure.

Purposes of the Experiment

As already stated in Chapter I the purposes of this experiment are:

1. To determine as closely as possible the correlation that exists between the Rorschach M response and interest in people insofar as the latter is measured by the Social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values. The null hypothesis is that there is no significant correlation between the number of M responses and interest in people.
2. Having arrived at the aforementioned correlation to attempt an evaluation of the extent to which interest in people is a factor in the M response, together with a mention of some related factors that might be present as well in the formation of the M response.

Experimental Criteria

For purposes of this study, as previously mentioned, interest

in people refers to interest in people as ends in themselves. The Social scale on the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values purports to measure interest in people in terms of the latter standard, by means of a comparison with other areas of interest or value (see also Chapter I). The 1951 revision of the Allport-Vernon Study of Values by Gardner Lindzey made its largest revision in the Social scale which had previously been the weakest scale in the test (3). The original Study of Values had been validated in its 20 years of use in countless vocational, aptitude, value and perception studies. However it does little good to cite any of these in order to justify the use of the revised version of the test especially in view of the weakness of the Social scale in the original version. The entire test has, according to the authors (3), been considerably improved in the 1951 revision but it is the Social scale in particular that has been improved most. The criticisms of the Social scale on the original Study of Values were several. One was that 'love of people' which it purported to measure was defined and measured too broadly, specifically that it failed to differentiate between love and sympathy for individuals and love of mankind in the abstract. There was, as well, very little internal consistency within the scale, neither was there a good measure of reliability. The 1951 revision took particular pains to correct the failings of the original scale.. While there has not been the volume of research done with the 1951 revision as on the original Study of Values, there is evidence (3) to indicate that the former is a more internally consistent, rigidly defined and reliable measure of 'love of people' than was the latter version of the scale. Thus it was felt justifiable to use the Social scale on the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values as the measure of

interest in people in the present experiment.

The Harrower-Erickson Group Rorschach was administered and used as the source of M responses. The use of Harrower-Erickson's group administration was felt to be justified on the grounds that Harrower-Erickson's studies have shown that there is no appreciable difference in the quantity of M responses between the group and individual administrations of the Rorschach test (21, p. 12). It was also felt that, though the Group Rorschach method has decided weaknesses, especially on the scoring of determinants because of an inquiry that is inferior to the individual method, the M response is usually easily scorable even with the group type of inquiry (21, p. 46). Thus the M response, as measured by the Harrower-Erickson Group Rorschach administration, was compared with the Social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values, insofar as the Social scale is a valid measure of interest in people.

Experimental Subjects

The experimental group consisted of 46 subjects, 25 females and 21 males ages 17-28 with a mean age for the group of 20.04 years. Forty-two of the subjects were registered in various faculties and schools of this University. Three of the subjects had never attended university while another subject was a graduate nurse. Forty-three of the subjects were obtained from a United Church Young People's group located close to this campus. The selection of this group as subjects for this experiment had the following advantages:

1. It was convenient for the experimenter to obtain subjects from the aforementioned group of which he was a member.

2. The group from which the subjects were obtained attracted university students almost exclusively, and from a sizeable cross-section of faculties and schools, with the emphasis on Education, Nursing and Arts and Science. It was therefore felt that a good as well as convenient opportunity presented itself as a source of subjects for the present experiment. The subjects volunteered readily for the experiment when asked because of their acquaintanceship with the experimenter, and probably because of the interesting nature of the experiment. The former especially tended to lend a rapport which might otherwise have been lacking in the impersonal and somewhat perplexing experience of the Group Rorschach experience.

3. It was further felt that university students because of their relatively high intelligence would be expected to provide a great number of genuine M responses, especially in view of the oft-demonstrated relationship which exists between intelligence and the production of M responses.

4. Any undue bias which might be thought to offset the results due to the selection of almost all the subjects from a religious organization would probably be negligible for the following reasons: the liberal nature of the United Church; the fact that it is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada and is not strict in its standards for membership tends to give it a rather broad cross-section of the population; the particular youth group from which the subjects were obtained tended to have a social rather than a religious emphasis, again bringing in a broader cross-section than would otherwise be expected; membership in the United Church is not required for membership in the youth group. All of the aforementioned factors would seem to have the effect of

broadening the representatives of the group selected.

5. The use of the Group Rorschach tends to make preferable the use of intelligent subjects so that they may express themselves clearly with regard to determinants. The Study of Values was designed particularly for university students (3).

Experimental Procedure

In order to save time as well as for the convenience of the experimental subjects it was decided to administer the Harrower-Erickson Group Rorschach immediately following the administration of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values. In this way the entire experiment was performed and all the data was collected in a single sitting. Such an arrangement was enabled by the realization suggested by Harrower-Erickson (21, p. 46) and alluded to earlier, that of all the Rorschach determinants the M response is the most unmistakable in scoring using the Group method. Thus there seemed to be no loss forthcoming from using the Group Rorschach method of administration in preference to the incomparably more time-consuming individual Rorschach administration.

The administration of the Group Rorschach requires a screen upon which to project the images of the blots from the 3x4 slides upon which they are contained. For the most part the better screens are beaded. The disadvantages of the beaded screen is that in a large room, such as the experimental room used in the present study, differing degrees of glare are found especially at the sides of the room at angles from the blot images. Otherwise the beaded screen prevents any distortion of the blot images themselves. The glare can affect not only the backgrounds of the blots but also the degree of shading seen. To eli-

minate this glare pains had to be taken to insure that these differences did not in any way affect the amount of shading brought out on the images which included insuring that the maximum amount of shading was available to the view of all subjects. Adjustments were thus made until, by the judgment of the experimenter and two other unbiased helpers,* it was ascertained that the shading was equally emphasized in all parts of the experimental room, even though differences in the amount of glare could not be removed. The latter was felt to be inconsequential as long as the shading was equally apparent to all and the view of the blots was as nearly identical as possible from every part of the room. Figure 1 shows the seating arrangement arrived at in the experimental room.

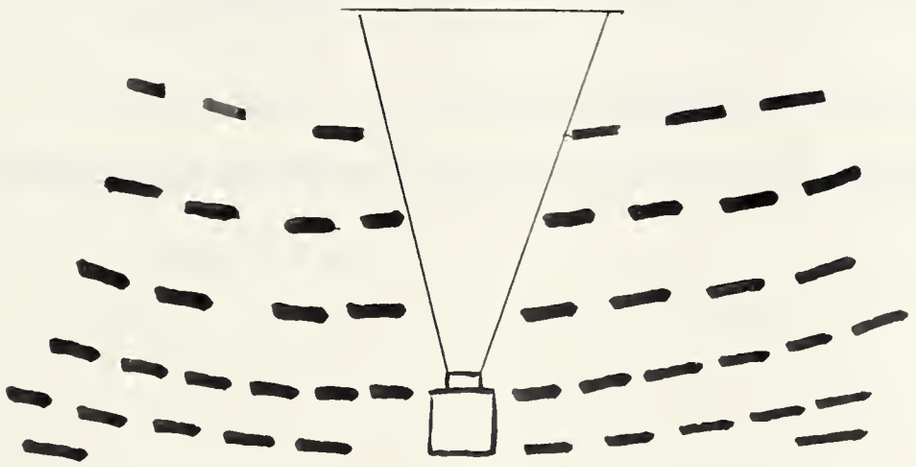

Figure 1 - Seating Arrangement in Experimental Room

The Study of Values was first administered to the subjects using the administration procedures recommended by Allport, Vernon and Lindzey. The instructions for the Group Rorschach which immediately followed the administration of the Study of Values were with minor variations due to being spoken rather than read, identical to the

* Dr. Spearman and Park Davidson, a graduate psychology student

instructions recommended by Harrower-Erickson (21, p. 33). They are as follows:

> The test which you are about to take is rather an interesting one and I think you will enjoy it. All you have to do is look at some slides which will be projected on the screen and write down what you see. Now the point about these slides is that they are nothing more or less than reproductions of ink-blots. Probably all of you at one time or another have shaken your pen on a piece of paper, caused a blot of ink, and on folding the paper produced a weird splotch which may or may not have resembled something that you recognized. Now these slides are nothing more than reproductions of ink-blots formed in this way. Your task is simply to write down what these splotches remind you of, resemble, or might be. You will see each of these slides of blots for three minutes and you may write down your answers at your own time. Is that understood? It may help you later in the test if you make a point of numbering your answers to each slide as you write them down (21, p. 33).

In accordance with Harrower-Erickson's instructions the inquiry was administered immediately upon completion of the performance proper.

CHAPTER V

THE CONTINUATION OF THE VALIDATION STUDY OF THE RORSCHACH M RESPONSE

Experimental Data

The purposes of the experiment, subject data, and experimental procedure have been presented in the previous chapter; this chapter continues with the data, analysis of the data, results and conclusions of the experiment.

The data are first of all presented in their raw form in Table 1. It should be kept in mind that on the standardized norms the mean score for the Social scale, as on all scales of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values is 40. A score of above 45 is considered to be definitely high, while a score below 35 is considered definitely low; scores inside the range between 35 and 45 exceed 50% of all scores for that value. A score of above 50 or below 30 is considered to be outstandingly high or low respectively, such limits comprising 82% of all scores for that scale.

The reason for first presenting the raw data in tabular form is in order to give an overview of the results obtained and to allow individual comparisons to be made along with a general impression to be gained. The reader may thus make his examination of the raw data.

It should also be added that the criterion for the so-called "friendly M" is that two or more humans are shown in the type of interaction which featured talking, dancing, playing or working together. The criterion for the "hostile M" is that one or more humans are shown to be either ridiculous in an obviously derogatory sense e.g., "Pompous fat man", or threatening e.g., "Many armed monster carrying a club in

TABLE 1

Showing the distribution of the comparison of each subject's scores on (1) the Social scale of the A-V-L Study of Values; (2) the transformation of the latter to T scores; (3) the number of M responses given by each subject; (4) the number of M responses given by each subject showing humans in friendly interaction; (5) the number of M responses given by each subject showing hostile content; (6) the number of Rorschach responses given by each subject.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
55	73.0	5	2	0	33	44	49.4	9	2	2	42
54	68.8	6	2	1	28	44	49.4	6	1	1	42
52	66.4	5	0	1	36	43	48.1	4	0	0	28
51	63.6	7	5	2	18	43	48.1	5	1	2	30
51	63.6	11	2	0	31	43	48.1	4	0	2	28
50	61.3	3	0	1	11	42	46.4	4	1	1	36
50	61.3	3	0	0	27	42	46.4	8	2	2	33
49	59.8	1	0	1	10	42	46.4	5	0	2	40
48	57.1	9	4	0	37	41	45.2	6	2	1	45
48	57.1	12	2	2	67	40	44.6	1	1	0	34
48	57.1	7	0	1	32	39	43.7	4	0	3	17
48	57.1	7	1	2	42	39	43.7	3	2	0	32
48	57.1	5	2	3	40	38	41.8	4	2	0	36
48	57.1	2	1	0	27	38	41.8	4	0	2	13
47	54.5	7	0	2	42	38	41.8	2	0	0	20
47	54.5	15	1	3	64	37	40.2	5	1	2	33
46	53.1	11	5	1	39	36	39.2	4	1	2	21
46	53.1	2	0	1	27	35	38.2	7	2	3	28
46	53.1	3	2	1	28	34	37.3	9	0	3	47
45	51.1	10	0	4	43	32	34.8	2	1	0	14
45	51.1	5	1	2	22	32	34.8	4	0	3	19
45	51.1	5	2	1	34	30	31.5	7	1	3	55
45	51.1	5	4	0	40	26	27.0	3	0	2	10

Mean T scores 50 Mean M - 5.54 Mean "friendly M" - 1.21 Mean "host
Standard deviation 9.93 S.D. - 2.98 S.D. - 1.3 M" - 1.41
Mean R - 32.2 S.D.- 1.09
S.D. - 12.52

one arm" or where two or more people are shown to be fighting or arguing.

Statistical Analysis of the Experimental Data

Statistical and strictly objective analyses of Rorschach data are subject to difficulties because of the very nature of the test which, though it uses numbers and comparisons in scoring and interpretation, its interpretation is independent of statistical norms. Though it purports to be a means of determining the dynamics of personality most of its ultimate value in so doing depends upon the skill, experience and insight of the clinical examiner. Thus it can by no means be said to be an objective test in the strictest sense, in the sense for instance of a paper and pencil test such as the MMPI. To attempt sweeping conclusions or even conditional ones on the basis of single Rorschach determinants is poor procedure. Thus normal methods of statistical procedure cannot be expected to yield clear-cut or unequivocal findings. If trends are even suggested it is probably the best that can be expected. With the Rorschach technique individual determinants have little meaning by themselves, rather the interaction of determinants upon one another subject to qualitative interpretations based upon such things as sequence and content analysis sheds far more light on personality dynamics than does any single determinant. The following results of the statistical analysis must be regarded with caution.

It must also be noted that the type of statistical procedures used in the present study were limited due to the nature of the Study of Values. The strengths of the values are scored relative to the other values in the scale. Thus an inordinately high value on one

scale decreases the other values accordingly. The values are, in a word, not absolute. This means too that an individual might be held to a low score in a particular value, even though, in an absolute sense he attaches high value to that area. Another individual might score high on a particular value or values, not because of strong feeling in that area but because he cares even less for the other values in the scale. The rationale of the Study of Values, based as it is on Spranger's theory (49) assumes that people are divided according to their dominant values, and that furthermore they have dominant values of a rather idealistic nature. No allowance is made for the philistine. Be that as it may it is probable, for the most part, that if a person selected a certain value consistently throughout the test and scored 'definitely high' on it, that he feels quite strongly about that particular area. However scores obtained on the Study of Values are not subject to direct comparison between individuals.

This means too that it cannot be said with any certainty that a subject who scores fifty-five on a particular scale attaches higher value to that area than one who scores fifty-four or even fifty on the same scale. Nor, for this reason, can the Study of Values be said to be an equal interval scale in comparing individual subjects with one another. That is to say that one who scores fifty-three on a given scale does not necessarily represent a higher rating on a given value to one who scores fifty-two than the latter would be to one who scored fifty-one. Strictly speaking therefore the scores on the Study of Values are only applicable to intra-personal comparison. For this reason a parametric statistic such as the Pearson coefficient of correlation should not be used in relating the individual scores on the Study of

Values to the scores on the M response. To get around this problem, however, it is possible to translate the scores on the Study of Values to normalized standard scores known as T scores (57). It will now be possible to correlate the scores obtained by subjects on the standardized Social scale with the number of M responses obtained by each subject. The latter measure is already assumed to be an equal interval measure because six M's for instance represents as much above five M's as the latter is above 4 M's.

Before comparing the scores on the Social scale of the Study of Values it was thought well to consider to what degree the number of M responses was a function of the total number of responses (R) in each Rorschach protocol. It was alarming to discover that with the present data a correlation of r = .70 was discovered to exist between the number of M responses and the total number of responses given by each subject (Table 2 a). This relationship is significant at less than the one percent level of confidence (p less than .01). This discovery would seem to suggest that M is to a large degree an artifact of the total of responses given in any Rorschach protocol. Were this true it would contaminate any findings with respect to the M response for the factors which contribute to the total number of responses would be included to a great degree in every measure of M. That M is known to be a function of R to some degree at least cannot be gainsaid. Other things being

equal there is greater likelihood of many M's in a Rorschach protocol of ninety responses than there is in one of twenty-five responses. Much of this is due to the fact that the same factors that produce responses i.e., productivity and imaginativeness, are closely related to some factors believed to produce M responses i.e., imagination and problem-solving ability. It is probably the latter rather than M being a straight function of R that tends to contribute toward the high correlation found in the present study. Nonetheless the effects of R will have to be taken into consideration in evaluating the relationship between interest in people and the number of M responses.

Results

Using the Pearson correlation coefficient there was found to be a correlation of r = .20 (Table 2 c), between the normalized Social scale and the number of M responses. This is significant at less than the ten percent level of confidence. The relationship approaches significance but is rejected. In evaluating the possible effects of the number of responses upon the Social scale in order to see how they compared with the relationship of M and the Social scale, there was found to be a correlation of r = .10. A partial correlation was then taken where R was held constant. A correlation of r = .175 (Table 2 d) was found to exist. This relationship is not significant. Thus the number of responses is shown not to have a significant effect on the number of M responses. At any rate the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between interest in people as measured by the Study of Values, and the number of M responses given by subjects on the Rorschach test is upheld.

An attempt was next made to determine the effect of the content

of the M response as a factor in demonstrating the degree of interest in people. As already mentioned the M responses were classified, where possible, into 'friendly M's" and "hostile M's". The former showed two or more humans in friendly interaction while the latter showed humans engaged in hostile acts or in derogatory circumstance. Due to the fact that there was not a large distribution of such M's in either classification it was not possible to correlate them to the normalized Social scale with the Pearson correlation. When one variable is measured in a graduated fashion, as are the normalized Study of Values scores, and the other is in the form of a dichotomy it is called a biserial situation (58). The biserial correlation can be used for such measures. The friendly and hostile M's were both readily converted into dichotomies. The friendly M's ranged from zero to five in number. It was decided somewhat artibrarily that the production of two or more friendly M's would be considered high and one or no such M's would be considered low. One such M was not considered to show a trend whereas two such M's was considered to be more than accidental. Thus a dichotomy was established. The hostile M's were treated similarly except that one or no such M's was considered positive while two or more hostile M's was considered the negative sign. In other words hostile M's were correlated with low interest in people.

Using the biserial coefficient there was found to be a correlation of $r_b = .37$ between the friendly M and the Social scale of the Study of Values. This is significant at less than the two and one-half percent level of confidence (p less than .025) (Table 2 e). In relating the hostile M with low interest in people using the biserial coefficient there was found to be a correlation of $r_b = .45$. This is significant at

less than the one percent level of confidence (p less than .01) (Table 2 f).

Table 2 - Results

(a)	R	M		$r = .70$	p less than .01
(b)	Social	R		$r = .10$	n.s.
(c)	Social	M		$r = .20$	p less than .10 n.s.
(d)	Social	M	R constant	$r_{12.3} = .175$	n.s.
(e)	Social	friendly M		$r_b = .37$	p less than .02
(f)	Social	hostile M		$r_b = .45$	p less than .01

r = Pearson correlation $r_{12.3}$ = partial correlation

r_b = biserial correlation Social = Social scale A.V.L. = Study of Values

Conclusions

From an analysis of the results of the experiment the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. Though there is a high correlation between M and R (r = .70) M is not an artifact of the total number of responses.

2. There is a correlation which approaches significance (r = .20) between interest in people as measured by the Social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values (p less than .10). However when the number of Rorschach responses (R) is held constant the correlation decreases slightly (r = .175) and is nonsignificant. The correlation between interest in people as measured and the Rorschach M response is not significant.

3. There is a significant biserial correlation ($r_b = .37$) between interest in people as measured and M responses showing humans in friendly

interaction.

4. There is a significant biserial correlation (r_b = .45) between low interest in people as measured and M responses with hostile or derogatory content.

CHAPTER VI

DISCUSSION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

The present study demonstrates that there is not a significant relationship between interest in people as measured by the Social scale of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values and the tendency to give M responses on the Rorschach test. There is however a significant relationship between the content within M responses and interest in people. It has been demonstrated in this study that the tendency to give M responses showing humans in friendly interaction is significantly related to interest in people. In a converse manner the tendency to produce M responses showing hostile, threatening or derogatory content is significantly related to absence of or low interest in people. Thus it would seem clear that the content of the M response is a reliable indicator of attitude toward other people. It is interesting to observe as well that the so-called hostile M appears to have a more marked relationship with low interest in people than the "friendly M" has with interest in others. The latter may be because a hostile reaction has more effects than a friendly one.

These findings are not altogether unexpected. It hardly seems likely that the number of M responses by itself would relate highly to interest in people in view of the possibility of M responses with hostile content. The latter could scarcely expect to contribute to such interest. That the hostile M seems to be a more definite indicator of the direction of interest in people than the friendly M undoubtedly in fact has the effect of nullifying any relationship between

interest in people and the M response. Nonetheless many Rorschach workers as already noted, for instance Roe (41), Klopfer, Phillips and Smith (35), and Bochner and Halpern (11) suggest with varying degrees of emphasis the importance of such a relationship in the meaning of the M response. The present study has not only shown that their statements tended to be in error but it has succeeded in showing that the content of the M response is an important indicator of the subject's attitude toward other people. It is not claimed that this finding is totally novel in Rorschach work. It is probably assumed or implied by many Rorschach practitioners. Yet the present study is the first, in the knowledge of the writer, to demonstrate experimentally that the content of the M response is an indicator of attitude to other people.

This finding has implications in the use of the Rorschach in the clinical situation and for personality study in general. One's attitude toward other people is recognized by most clinical theorists and practitioners to be a vitally important factor in personality dynamics. The attitude toward reality or toward other people reveals how one perceives them. One's perception of others tends to determine how one reacts toward them. Since in human society other people tend to be, other things being equal, the most important factors of the environment with which we have to deal the knowledge of attitudes toward other people is very important in the total understanding of the personality. The content of the Rorschach M response is now shown to give such a measure.

What light do the present findings shed on the perceptual foundations of the M response? The present study has attempted to show that certain perceptual assumptions underlie all theories of the meaning of the M response. Basically there seemed to be two such assumptions.

One of them, the so-called identification theory implicitly or explicitly assumed that the subject identified himself with his M percepts in the ink-blots. Holders of this theory stressed that the subject thereby received vicarious satisfaction for needs for which he could not find overt expression. Rorschach (43), Beck (8), Bohm (12), and Schachtel (44), among the theorists particularly held to this view. Experimental findings by Werner (55), Meltzoff (29, 30, 31, 32) and others (49, 50) tended to support it. Piotrowski (37), and Phillips and Smith (35) also held to an identification theory but saw the M response as being the subject's role in life, or conception of himself. Their view differs from the others in that M is here related to overt activity. The other assumption underlying the meaning of the M response is the so-called onlooker theory. In this view the subject seems to remain detached from the blot materials. Either he solves the perceptual problem which they present or he looks upon them as prototypes of the external world which because of their ambiguity can be seen as the subject sees the external world or, because ambiguity gives a certain freedom, as he would like to see it. Rapaport (42), and Klopfer (26) are the chief proponents of the onlooker theory. The experiments on values by Postman (38), McGinnies (33), and Bruner (14) tend to support this view. Proponents of the identification theory tend to relate the M response to fantasy and inner preoccupation while those who hold the onlooker theory tend to relate M to the total personality and its activities.

The present study has shown the content of the M response to relate to the attitude of the subject toward other people. How do these findings relate to the identification theory? In the case of the friendly M, needs are probably finding outlets in the perception of humans in

friendly interaction. Interest in people by definition (see earlier) presupposes high value being attached to others. Roe (41) has pointed out that interests are etiologically related to deprivation or need. If interest is related then the tendency to perceive objects of interest in ambiguous situations is probably related to deprivation or need in the area of interest. The experimental findings which support the identification theory (29, 30, 31, 32, 49, 50) all show inhibited activities or experimentally induced needs seeking outlet in an increase of M responses or in sensory perception of motion. The present findings at least with respect to the friendly M support the identification theory if interest is indeed related to need. In terms of interest in people it may well be that early deprivations have led to difficulties in the area of interpersonal relations. These difficulties the subject attempts to resolve by relating himself by whatever means he has to others. If he is inhibited perhaps by the very nature of his difficulties from resolving them in satisfactory interpersonal relationships he may find outlets in professed humanitarian interests and ideals, such as are measured by the Social scale of the Study of Values. Love for other people becomes a value.

It is more difficult to show the relationship between the hostile M and absence of interest in people in terms of the identification theory. A Freudian theory of projection is required which postulates that an unacceptable feeling i.e., one is inferior or ridiculous, is projected onto others, or onto appropriate ambiguous materials. Hostile needs, born of frustrations, are readily understood as finding outlet or satisfaction in the blot materials. A need to view others as objects of hostility or as ridiculous would quite naturally

appear to be inversely related to interest in others. Thus the relationship between the hostile M and low interest in people also supports the identification theory of the M response.

Yet the onlooker theory also finds support from the present findings. Given an ambiguous situation which calls for meaning and structure, or given a problem which calls for solution, there would seem to be the opportunity to structure the situation or to solve the problem in terms of dominant needs or interests of the subject. The subject tends to give the ambiguous situation meaning in terms of either the world as he views it or as he would like to view it. That these tendencies occur is verified by the experiments on values by Postman (38), McGinnies (33) and Bruner (14). If one is interested in others he tends to look for others in such a way as to confirm his dominant interests or needs i.e., in friendly interaction. The advantage of the Rorschach materials is that they give the subject the opportunity to view the situation more clearly in terms of his interests and needs, since they present so few obstacles because of their ambiguity. If one is hostile toward others he tends to see the world as he expects to find it. And since he is hostile toward others they are hostile toward him, by his frame of reference. If others are hostile and thus threatening, the ambiguous situation gives the opportunity to reduce their threat. The subject can do so by seeing others as ridiculous or stupid. Thus when the Rorschach materials are regarded as problems which call for solution because they are ambiguous situations which demand structure and meaning, they are given the required meaning in terms of the subjects dominant needs, expectations, interests and preoccupations.

The present findings are thus found to support both the on-looker and the identification theories of the M response. In fact, they tend to show that such a distinction is spurious. Given the problem, or should it be said the opportunity presented by an ambiguous situation such as that presented by the Rorschach ink-blots the subject tends to solve it in terms of his dominant needs or interests. It matters little whether it is said that the subject projects himself into the blots, so Schachtel (44), finds vicarious need-fulfillment kinesthetically, so Rorschach (43), or sensorally, so Werner (55), or on the other hand solves a perceptual problem in terms of his own habitual perception of reality or his needs. As Schachtel says "The way in which a person sees <u>is</u> the person" (45, p. 40). In other words the subject most satisfactorily solves the problem presented by the blots by projecting himself into the situation and solving the problem in terms of his own needs. For the M greater than Sum C person, M can relate to external activity but that activity is always related to an <u>inner</u> need. It is peculiarly the individual that is seen in the M response, his needs, his interests, his preoccupations. But it is that which is innermost in the individual, that which seeks expression, that which has been deprived expression. The present study shows above all that it is needs, and their consequences, namely interests, which are found in the content of the M response.

In doing so it shows that both the findings with regard to need-fulfillment (29, 30, 31, 32, 49, 50 etc.) and those with regard to values (38, 33, 14 etc.) agree with one another. In regarding interests and values as needs seeking expression by various means, the M response is seen to be a problem-solving activity. When needs do not

find immediate overt satisfaction they are transformed as Werner notes (55) to the sensory sphere as well as to the cognitive sphere. Thus they tend to be perceived when the opportunity arises as in the Rorschach, because they are always seeking expression in ways other than those denied to them through inhibition. Prior inhibition thus is confirmed as a requisite for the M response to appear. The inhibition need not have been immediate. It could have been in the subject's past but it must have been sufficiently depriving to give rise to strong motivation to strive for the fulfillment of the established need that has resulted from the earlier deprivation. In this sense the M response could coincide with overt activity in the present if the original need-state was strong. Yet the deprivation which established the original need must not have been debilitating. If it is too severe it destroys the possibility of ever achieving the desired object of gratification;only if there is the possibility and the hope of achievement is there likely to be problem-solving activity and is an interest likely to be sustained. Further speculation would be getting beyond the scope of the present study. Suffice it to say that the present findings support those views of the meaning of the M response which view it as indicating problem-solving, inhibition, need seeking expression, fantasy activity and capacity for delay in hope of later satisfaction.

Limitations of the Present Study

The primary criticism of the present study is probably the limitations imposed upon it by the use of the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values. This instrument was restrictive first of all in that it has rather weak empirical validity as a measure of interest in people.

The original Allport-Vernon Study of Values had more than ample validity but the present instrument due to its relative youth has not accumulated anything like the validity possessed by the original Study of Values. The chief claim of the revision, especially of the Social scale, is its markedly improved reliability and internal consistency over the original rather weak Social scale. The present instrument is also more rigidly defined in its measure of interest in people than was the older instrument. The present Social scale possesses very adequate face and content validity and in the judgment of the present writer it is the best method for measuring interest in people that is presently available. There are few such measures.

The second limitation imposed by the Study of Values has already been alluded to. It is the difficulty of making interpersonal comparisons; only intrapersonal comparisons are strictly speaking justifiable.

In spite of its limitations it is felt that the present study was simple and direct and accomplished the purpose for which it was designed, to examine the relationship between interest in people and the M response of the Rorschach test and in so doing shed some light on the meaning of the M response.

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